

Hello Harold Weisberg!

This is a copy of an article that appeared on the front page of the July 26 issue of the Arkansas Democrat newspaper. I thought that you might like to read it. Please note that I am holding one of your books.

Best always,

James E. Moore

Why stall around in high school?

By BILL HUSTED
Democrat Staff Writer

KNOXVILLE — James Moore is 17 years old, a child of the times.

What a time. What a child.

Moore plans to be president of the United States someday. Moore's timetable is so definite that he must skip his senior year in high school and graduate from college in an election year.

Before he takes that on, he wants to find out who killed President John F. Kennedy. He intends to prove that Lee Harvey Oswald didn't do it by himself. To that end, Moore has traveled to Dallas three times to interview eyewitnesses to the killing.

What kind of nut is this?

"I guess you could say I'm a conspiracy nut," Moore said. "When I hear about something, I start thinking that there must be a conspiracy."

Moore, an A and B student at nearly Lamar High School in Johnson County, is no kind of nut. He, like all of us, is a product of the times.

The year he was born, a man named Fidel Castro was seizing power in Cuba. When Moore was 4, Kennedy was killed. Neil Armstrong was setting foot on the moon the year Moore turned 10. President Richard Nixon became the first president to resign in Moore's 15th year.

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And Moore has tried to follow the woofs and warps of his world.

It has been a world of obsessions.

Moore spent three years of his life trying to learn everything he could about Baron Manfred von Richthofen, the World War I German flying ace. He took a year or so on Harry Houdini, the escape artist and magician.

"I've always been interested in odd things," Moore said.

But his interest in the Kennedy assassination is no passing fancy. Moore has chewed and digested books and pamphlets detailing the various theories of conspiracy. He has studied ballistics reports, examined handwriting samples and talked to witnesses with a grim sense of purpose—unusually grim, amazingly serious, for a 17-year-old.

"It's important to me because, if we can prove that the government has lied to us, then we can assume there have been other incidents of deceit that have yet to be uncovered," Moore said. "I have become quite cynical of everything the government has done."

Cynicism comes easily, even naturally, for Moore.

"I am cynical of the men that run government, disbelieving of their actions," he said.

And does he wonder sometimes if his life is too serious, not enough play and too many plots?

"I like to think I am serious," he said. "I can't see that I'm missing too much in being serious. Maybe someday I'll look back and be sorry, but I don't think so."

Moore's conspiracy theories—whether they are given any credence or not—are frightening to grow up with.

"My father told me that one of these guys—the visitors that come to interview Moore—will knock on the door with a shotgun someday," Moore said.

But, at least for a moment, Moore smiled.

"I don't believe anyone is going to drive this far to shoot me," he said.

He lives in an isolated spot at the end of a road that stops at his front door.

His interest in politics seems a hopeful sign in a young man who believes government cannot be believed. It is the people who are in office that he distrusts, not the system.

Moore sounded like a politician when he talked of his plans.

"I want to go as high as I can go," he said, and then immediately seemed to regret his words. "People think you are



an egotist if you say you want to be president.

"I want to start in local politics and gradually work up."

So he is trying to enter Arkansas Polytechnic College at Russellville this fall.

"I can't see any use of waiting around for my senior year in high school," he said. "I want to get started."

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